



## LOUISIANA SENATE

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### **SENATOR THOMPSON KEEPING CLOSE EYE ON BUDGET**

#### **ALSO MONITORING MEASURES RELATED TO ARSON AND CONSUMER CREDIT LAW**

District 34 State Senator Francis Thompson (D-Delhi) is keeping a watchful eye on the proposed state budget and its impact on health care services and education in Northeast Louisiana. With just a few weeks left in the legislative session, the Louisiana Senate will soon begin discussions over the \$25 billion dollar proposed state operating budget, which was approved by the House of Representatives last week.

"I am very concerned about the impact the state budget will have on our area," said Sen. Thompson. "I will be watching this issue very closely and working with my colleagues to reach a favorable outcome. I will continue to fight for adequate funding for rural health care and all education, from kindergarten to postsecondary education."

Senator Thompson is also monitoring the progress of his proposed bills as they continue through the legislative process.

Senator Thompson's proposals related to arson have only one final hurdle to clear before being sent to the governor. The Senate must approve of house changes Senate Bills 351 and 388. SB 351 makes changes to the state burn injury-reporting law and SB 388 extends the amount of time that convicted arsonists are required to be registered with the state from five to ten years. SB 388 also creates the crime, "injury by arson."

"Arsonists should be held responsible for their actions, especially if it results in the injury of another person," said Sen. Thompson.

Another important measure by Sen. Thompson, SB 241, is awaiting House approval. The bill authorizes the Commissioner of Financial Institutions to require submission of specific consumer loan data on an annual basis from the consumer credit licenses to the agency. The data will be used to collect loan-related data from the industry, as well as serve as a tool for determining a risk-focused approach to examination scheduling.

Lawmakers must complete the business of the 2014 Regular Session by 6:00 p.m. on Monday, June 2, 2014.

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